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Weinberger, Shultz urge help for freedom fighters

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Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, warning that the Marxist rulers of Nicaragua are "moving quickly, with Soviet bloc and Cuban help, to consolidate their totalitarian power," urged Congress yesterday to approve a resumption of military aid to the anti-communist guerrillas.

"Should they achieve this [consolidation]," he warned, "we could confront a second Cuba in this hemisphere, this time on the Central America mainland."

Mr. Weinberger told the House Foreign Affairs Committee that military aid to the rebels could allow them to deal with a large Sandinista offensive.

Congress suspended military aid to the guerrillas, known as the Con-

tras, in 1984 but has approved \$27 million in humanitarian aid.

Secretary of State George Shultz also was on Capitol Hill yesterday with a call to Congress to "support, not abandon, the democratic resistance within Nicaragua."

"The most immediate danger to democracy in Central America is the assault on it from Communist Nicaragua, aided by Cuba and the Soviet Union," he told the Senate Budget Committee.

Said Mr. Weinberger: "With appropriate, predictable amounts of aid, they could bring about a drastic change in behavior on the part of the Nicaraguan government."

"But should the Contras be funded by further cuts in the domestic program?" asked Rep. Ted Weiss, New York Democrat.

"There are supplementals in the president's budget which go towards the Contras," Mr. Weinberger said. "There's no need for further domestic cuts."

"So we put \$100 million in, what do we see in the next six months or a year?" asked Rep. Sam Gejdenson, Connecticut Democrat. "Don't they [Soviets and Cubans] just ante up every time we ante up? Don't you think they'll just keep sending in more guns?"

"They will if there is no visible penalty for doing that," Mr. Weinberger said. "A strong, well-led force that receives aid can make a very large difference."

"To prevent another Soviet beachhead is worth it," said Rep. Henry J. Hyde, Illinois Republican.

Mr. Shultz and Mr. Weinberger also urged Congress not to cut off aid to the Philippines, as the Senate condemned the disputed re-election of Ferdinand Marcos.

"I would counsel care and at least a little patience. We have sent them a very strong signal," Mr. Shultz told the Senate Budget Committee. "We want to stay connected with the Philippines. We don't want to walk away from it."

Mr. Weinberger said a cutoff of military aid to the Philippines would only help the communist insurgency waged by the New People's Army.

"In the end, the only real beneficiary of a delayed or diminished military aid program would be the New People's Army, and that is an outcome which we cannot support," Mr. Weinberger said.

Senate Budget Committee member Jim Sasser, Tennessee Democrat, who introduced a bill Tuesday to halt U.S. aid to the Philippines, told Mr. Shultz, "If we don't pull the plug on President Marcos, the Philippine people are going to pull the plug on the United States and its military bases."

Mr. Sasser's bill would affect military and economic aid to the Philippines, a key U.S. ally in the Pacific and the home of the two largest American military bases outside the United States.

His legislation would halt up to \$180 million of more than \$240 million in U.S. aid this year. The rest of the money has already been obligated to the Philippines.

Mr. Shultz noted that President Reagan has already condemned the Feb. 7 Philippine presidential election for widespread fraud and violence and has sent special envoy Philip Habib to the Philippines to talk "to all parties."

"We are in the process of assessing the situation," Mr. Shultz said. "I think we have to remember that this is, essentially, first a Philippine problem, and we want to see first how the Philippines are going to handle it."

"But you're right. We have a big stake there. We have a stake in freedom. We have a stake in democracy. Let's put that first, over and above the bases."

The Senate approved a non-binding resolution, 85-9, declaring that the Philippine election was "marked by such widespread fraud that [it] cannot be considered a fair reflection of the will of the people of the Philippines."

Sponsored by Majority Leader Robert Dole of Kansas and Minority Leader Robert Byrd of West Virginia, the resolution said the Philippine balloting "was plagued by widespread fraud at all levels."

"America's interests are best served in the Philippines by a government that has a popular mandate," the resolution added.

Mr. Shultz is seeking nearly \$234 million for the Philippines for the 1987 fiscal year, a decrease from current aid and the product of a budget in which "every attempt was made to economize."

In the first public hearing on his proposed spending package, the Senate Budget Committee warned Mr. Shultz that his proposals might face the ax under the Gramm-Rudman deficit-reduction plan, which dictates that the federal deficit be cut to \$144 billion in fiscal '87.

Mr. Shultz is seeking a \$2.1 billion increase in a proposed \$22.6 billion State Department budget. The proposal includes \$1.4 billion as the first installment in a five-year, \$4.4 billion plan to protect diplomatic missions from terrorism and to build new embassies in high-risk countries.

"You're going to be fortunate if there is a freeze and not a 12 percent cut" in the State Department budget proposal, Committee Chairman Peter Domenici of New Mexico told Mr. Shultz.

Although they warned him of impending budget cuts, committee members generally supported his proposals, especially his diplomatic security plan.

"Embassy security is a responsibility of this country. This fellow is with you," New York Democrat Daniel Patrick Moynihan said.